



## Chanukkah Celebrations

### Alternative Lights on Chanukkah

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel, Caryn Aviv and Joe Hample  
Tuesday, December 3, 7 - 8:30 pm

What's your Chanukkah story? The miracle of lights? Jewish national liberation? Jewish solstice ritual? There are more stories of Chanukkah than you may have imagined, and more depth and wisdom in this "light holiday" than meets the eye.

Members and Nonmembers: Free

### Second Annual Chanukkah Party for LGBT Jews Over 50 and Their Friends

On Wednesday, December 4 from 2-4 pm, join CSZ and the JFCS LGBT Outreach Committee for a festive Chanukkah party for LGBT Jews over 50 and their friends. We will nosh, shmooze, enjoy a dramatic reenactment of the Chanukkah story, listen to live Klezmer music and have a fabulous time! The party will take place at JFCS' Miriam Schultz Grunfeld Professional Building, 2150 Post Street at Scott, in San Francisco. It is easily accessible by MUNI Lines 24 Divisadero, 38 Geary and 4 Sutter. RSVP to Margaret Rothman at JFCS (415/449-1228 or MargaretR@JFCS.org).

### Last Night of Chanukkah Singles Extravaganza! Saturday, December 7, 7 pm

Chanukkah is around the corner, so put on your dancing shoes and come to our Last Night of Chanukkah Singles Extravaganza! We will begin the evening with Havdalah, then continue with Israeli dancing, shmoozing and eating latkes, sufganiot and other tasty treats. This will be a low-key singles event and space will be limited. Pre-registration by November 30 is required. To register, please contact Melanie Kushnir (415/861-6932 ext. 305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org). Volunteers are needed too!

Members: \$10 Nonmembers: \$20

### Transgender and Jewish Panel

Co-sponsored by CSZ's Social Action and Adult Education Committees and the JFCS LGBT Outreach Committee

Moderated by Ali Cannon

Wednesday, November 20, 7 - 9 pm

Join us for a panel discussion with local transgender Jews. Learn more about the "T" in LGBT! We will be learning about what it means to be transgender and how transgender Jews forge their Jewish identities. Panelists will represent the breadth of trans identities, including MtF, FtM, Transfag, genderqueer. Don't miss this chance to learn from folks who are challenging various notions of gender expression.

Members and Nonmembers: Free

### LGBT Adoption Panel

Moderated by

Jonathan Pannor, LCSW  
Saturday, November 9

1:30 - 3:30 pm \*

Please note new time \*

Parenting is a spiritual journey that can focus our attention on aspects of our being of which we may not have been aware. In this Shabbat discussion we will explore the unique as well as not-so-unique aspects of parenting through adoption within a Jewish spiritual context. We will discuss how we talk with our children about adoption, LGBT issues and Jewish heritage. We will also address the relevance of rituals for bringing children into the covenant and ideas about how this might be done. To register for childcare, please contact Melanie Kushnir by November 3 (415/861-6932 ext. 305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).

Members and Nonmembers: Free  
Childcare: \$5



### CSZ Wish List

If you have any of the following items that you can donate to CSZ, please contact Melanie Kushnir (415/861-6932 ext. 305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org):

- ❖ Large-screen TV
- ❖ Video Projector
- ❖ Projection Screen

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July-August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415/861-6932. Email: office@shaarzahav.org. Permission to reprint with attribution is hereby granted.

Members of the congregation receive the Forward as part of their membership. Non-members can receive a Forward subscription for \$36/year.

Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

#### Members of the Newsletter Committee

- Chair and Editorial Coordinator: Karen Schiller
- Editing/Proofreading/Layout: Judith Cohen, Marjorie Hilsenrad, Rose Katz, Batya Kalis
- Advertising: Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net)
- Design and Layout: Caryn Leschen, Aunt Violet Productions 415/282-0346
- Printing: Genesis Printing & Graphics
- Distribution: Mail It Right

**Display Ads** are \$15 per column inch with discounts available for frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

**Classified Ads** are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California, 94103, marked: Attention Forward Advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.



November 2002, Volume 26,  
Issue #3



## Beit Midrash

**Co-Chairs: Laura Lowe, Louisa Stone and Michael Chertok**  
Meets on the first Monday of each month

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's Beit Midrash (House of Study) is a lay-led monthly meeting of congregants interested in Jewish learning. The Beit Midrash features guest speakers, Jewish texts and learning together in a more formal setting. Our Beit Midrash relies heavily on chavruta study – study with a friend. We study a variety of topics pertaining to Jewish life. For more information on the Beit Midrash, please contact Melanie Kushnir (415/861-6932 ext. 305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).

Upcoming topics include: **November 4, Kashrut and Food Rituals**, with a special pot-luck supper; **December 2, Keeping Jewish Spirituality during Christmas**.

## Rainbow Adult Community Housing

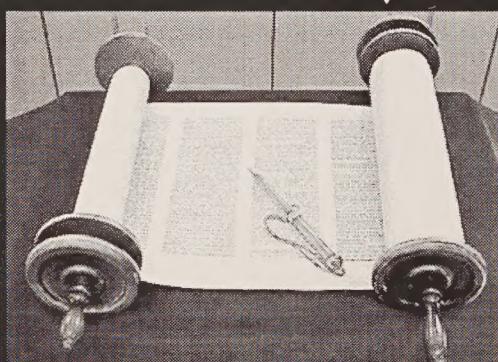
San Francisco has long been a mecca for LGBT people who began moving here in increasing numbers during the past 30 to 50 years. As this population ages, it faces the fact that the Bay Area is one of the most expensive places in the country in which to live and in which to retire. Twenty percent of San Francisco's senior citizens are gay or lesbian. After a lifetime of building communities, many of us can no longer afford to live here. When we try moving to more affordable communities, we are sometimes viewed as strangers and lack the communal resources necessary to care for ourselves. We often find cultures which disapprove of our sexuality, and find a lack of medical care responsive to our particular needs.

Now, a San Francisco housing group hopes to change this situation. Rainbow Adult Community Housing

—cont'd on next page

## ★ Sha'ar Zahav Gift Shop

### For All Things Judaic



Candlesticks	Kiddush Cups	Tallit
Jewelry	Matzah	Kippot
Mezzuzot	Covers	Seder Plates

**Gift Certificates Available**  
Many beautiful new items just arrived !

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## Dreaming of Property

Buying your first home? • Buying commercial or investment property?  
Buying a second vacation home? • Refinancing residential or commercial property?

**Deborah Udin**



**Step 3**  
*Pick up your keys!*

**Irene Oguis**



**Step 1**

Arrange Financing  
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415.441.5050 work / 415.441.5047 fax

**Step 2**

Find the right property for you.  
Zephyr Real Estate  
415.552.9500 ext. 122

Percentage of all commissions to CSZ

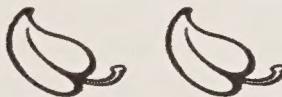
(RACH) is preparing to build the first mixed-income housing for LGBT seniors. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav was an early signatory and supporter of this project.

RACH has located land in the Hayes Valley District which will be available after demolition of the Central Freeway (scheduled for January, 2003). It will have about 250 units for 330 senior citizens, in a mix of market-rate and subsidized apartments aimed at lower- and middle-income LGBT seniors. In addition, the facility will feature a theater, café, fitness center, and a dementia and Alzheimer's care unit.

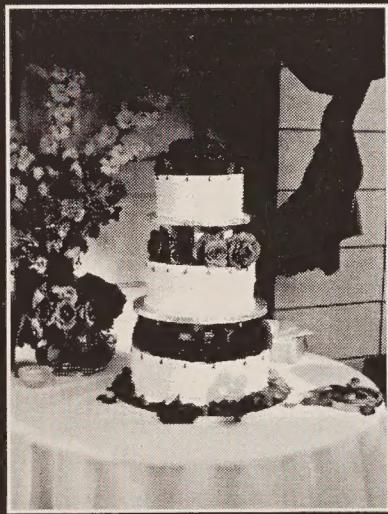
There are RACH brochures in the CSZ lobby or you can contact them directly (415/296-8995). Their web site is [www.sfrach.org](http://www.sfrach.org).

## November Anniversaries

1	Nancy Wecker and Lisa Wuennenberg
6	James Edlin and Eve Meyer
7	Judith Holiber and Kimberly Warsaw
8	Michael Bettinger and Robert Goldstein
13	Virginia Donohue and Mark Klaiman
14	Anne Bluethenthal and Donna Rae Palmer
17	Elizabeth and Michael Schaffer
17	Lisa Katz and Sharon Heath
18	Lele and Rachel Field
24	Ann Daniels and Jonathan Zingman
29	Rachel MacLachlan and Nancy Silverrod



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TEL: 415.552.7212  
[INFO@3RDLIGHT.COM](mailto:INFO@3RDLIGHT.COM)

## THE ISRAEL COMMITTEE



Deepening our community's connection to the people, culture, history and land of Israel

### Thank You Teach-In Participants!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the October 6 Reform Movement Teach-In on Israel, "In Search of Peace and Security": Rabbi Angel for her teaching on The Significance of Israel from the Jewish-American Perspective; our guest panel of Israeli and American students who talked about Coming of Age Without Peace or Security; Jake Wirtschafter for his discussion on Ten Principles for Mid-East Peacemaking; Tiela Chalmers for skillfully facilitating the event; Melanie Kushnir, Gabby Volodarsky

and Max for their logistical support; and most of all, to the thirty-five people who brought their energy and passion to three hours of learning despite the pull of beautiful weather, the Castro Street Fair and the Giants game! We look forward to more exciting Israel-related programming at Sha'ar Zahav.

The next Israel Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21 at 6:30 pm. For more information about the Israel Committee, please contact Co-Chairs Steve Mazer ([steve@rezam.com](mailto:steve@rezam.com)) or Miki Goralsky ([Goralsky@aol.com](mailto:Goralsky@aol.com)).

## New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Ronni Hayon  
Nancella Ribak and Aaron Farmer  
Adam Levine  
Tommy Encarcega

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.



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Director of Sales  
650/756-3633



## Pinat Yeladim Umishpachah

Children and Family Corner



### Family Chanukkah Celebration:

Wednesday, December 6, 6 – 7:30 pm

**B**ring all the kids to a post-Kadimah Chanukkah celebration. Enjoy latkes, games, music and holiday fun. Light the candles with your Kadimah community!

### Baby Chavurah

Sunday, November 3 and Sunday, November 24  
10 am – noon

**B**ring those under twos out to play, sing and commune with like-minded babes and their parents. Join us for potluck brunch, playtime and socializing. On November 3, we will meet at the home of Kevin Stein and Helen Bruno. On November 24, we will meet at the synagogue and celebrate Chanukkah together. Look for directions in the CSZ weekly email or contact the Education Office. Please bring your baby and a vegetarian dish to share. Older siblings are welcome, as are nonmembers.

### Kadimah Goes to the Theater!

**C**ontinue your Chanukkah celebration with Kadimah's holiday theater trip to see Moonwatcher: A New Tale of Chelm for Chanukkah, a production of A Traveling Jewish Theatre. Bring the family to this "new musical-clown-puppet fable for our time." Stay tuned for details.

### A Thousand Thanks for Wonderful Holidays

**W**hat an incredible beginning we've had to our New Year! I want to thank the many people who made all our children's and family programming possible this year. Thanks to Joan Goldman and Dafna Wu for assisting in the coordination of High Holiday children's programming. To all of the participants in Junior Congregation and to Alan Gordon and Ruby Cymrot-Wu, who coordinated family services and re-created our Youth Machzor. To all of our High Holiday staff. To the many people who took a turn at the doors of the children's rooms. To the Mintzers, the Prochovnick/Frantz family, the Zingman-Daniels family and the Szoke/Bennet family for hosting our Family Sukkah-building Day. And thanks to the Oneg Coordinators, Ritual Chairs, ushers and others who helped to meet the varied needs of our kids throughout the holiday season. High Holidays are a wonderful testament to how we work together as a community to celebrate our traditions and draw strength from one another. May we enjoy a year filled with gemilut chasadim, acts of loving kindness.

• • • • •  
 Contact Sue Bojdak,  
 Director of Family and Children's  
 Education  
 (415/861-6932 ext. 302  
 or [educator@shaarzahav.org](mailto:educator@shaarzahav.org)) for more  
 information about any of these programs  
 or to RSVP.  
 • • • • •

### Tot Shabbat – just in time for Chanukkah!

Saturday, November 23, 10:30 am – noon

**C**hanukkah is coming! Come celebrate Shabbat and Chanukkah with your tot. Bring your 2-5 year olds for holiday singing, prayer, storytelling, crafts and family Jewish fun with Sandra Menachem, Early Childhood Education Specialist. Tot Shabbat meets the last Saturday of the month. Younger siblings and nonmembers are welcome.



### Kadimah Teacher of the Month: Jen Levinson

Jen Levinson is our second longest-serving teacher on the Kadimah staff. She has taught at Kadimah for six years. Currently, Jen is studying for her M.A. in English Composition and teaches Freshman Reading at San Francisco State University. She and her partner are new residents of Fairfax, and harbor dreams of starting an alternative farming community somewhere up north.

Because the students she taught for the past three consecutive years have graduated, this year Jen is taking on a new group of students. She is teaching Kitah Hey, the 5th/6th grade class. Jen is an innovative teacher who encourages critical thinking and likes to take her students on new adventures. Kol Ha'Kavod!



### Kadimah Introduces New Curriculum



This fall Kadimah is introducing two new curriculum initiatives. The first, a new Hebrew curriculum, was developed this summer by a group of educational staff. The new curriculum clearly articulates Kadimah's objectives regarding Hebrew. These objectives give our program more definition, make our expectations clear and make it easier to track our students' progress as they approach their B'nei Mitzvah year. Our overarching Hebrew goal is to enable our students to fully participate in Jewish ritual and to establish a foundation of learning which can built upon in future studies. In order to accomplish these goals, we focus on reading skills, teaching prayer and the structure of the liturgy, introducing fundamental principals of Hebrew grammar, basic vocabulary acquisition and the art of Jewish text study. Every child's Kadimah education includes some conversational Hebrew and other elements of Modern Hebrew, as we teach students that Hebrew is a living language, not only in our sanctuaries, but in the contemporary Jewish world. We look forward to evaluating our new curriculum throughout the year as we continue to strengthen our Hebrew program.

**CURRICULUM**—cont'd on next page

## *Two November B'not Mitzvah*



*Ilana Rainero-de Haan*

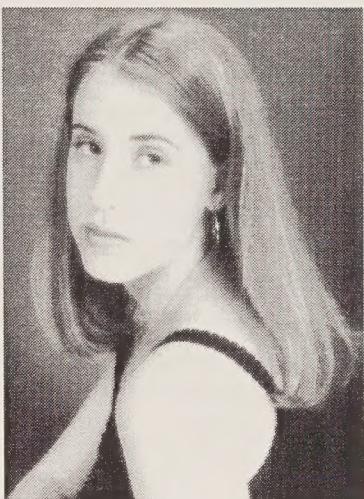
**O**n Saturday, November 2 (Parashat Chaye Sarah), Ilana Rainero-de Haan will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah. Ilana is in the seventh grade at the French American International School in San Francisco. In addition to learning Hebrew, she is fluent in English, Dutch and French and is currently studying German as well. Her favorite subjects are French, English and Theater. Outside of school, Ilana plays the piano, likes to read and sings with the San Francisco Girls' Chorus, although she is currently taking a semester off as she prepares for her bat mitzvah.

Ilana has enjoyed the whole process of studying and preparing for her bat mitzvah, and has found that she particularly loves leading services. With her experience of piano recitals, she finds that she isn't nervous and likes being on the bimah.

The biggest change for Ilana and her family during this process has been her father Pieter's decision to formally convert to Judaism. "I like that now we're all Jewish as a family," she says. Pieter, as well as her mother Ruth, will be reading from the Torah at her bat mitzvah.

Ilana wishes to thank Rabbi Angel, her teachers Phyllis Mintzer and Jen Levinson and her mentor Leslie Kane.

*Mazel tov to Ilana and her family and to Julia and her family on these joyous occasions!*



*Julia Becker*

**O**n Saturday, November 23 (Parashat Vayishlach), Julia Becker will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah. Julia and her mother Joan joined the congregation some years ago, and her aunts, cousin and grandmother are also involved at CSZ. Julia was a Kadimah student during many of those years. She is also helping with the Madrichim program.

This year, Julia is a junior at Lowell High School, where her preferred classes are Spanish and Drama. Although she has played clarinet in the band in the past, with her academic schedule and preparation for her bat mitzvah, she says that she does not have much time for other activities this year.

At present she is working on her bat mitzvah preparation, including Torah and Haftorah, with the help of Phyllis Mintzer and Batya Kalis. She is also working with Rabbi Angel. The portion is not difficult, she feels, but it is so well known that she is taking particular care to get it exactly right. She is also looking forward to seeing family from Southern California and the East Coast who will be coming for the big event, and has invited her friends from Lowell as well.

### **CURRICULUM—cont'd from page 4**

Our second new initiative is our Israel curriculum. In the summer of 2002, a team of Sha'ar Zahavniks, including the educator, teachers, Kadimah parents and a youth intern, collaborated to create for the first time an Israel curriculum for Kadimah. Due to Sha'ar Zahav's complicated relationship to the State of Israel and the broad spectrum of divergent opinions regarding Israel and its actions, Kadimah had until now not formally taught our students about Israel. The rabbi, the Children's Education Board and the director of education determined that this policy resulted in Jewish children ill-equipped to meet the challenges of contemporary questions of Jewish identity and our role as American Jews in the politics of world Jewry. It is our hope that this curriculum will enable our students to become well-informed about the realities of the modern State of Israel, about its origins, its role in the Jewish world, the life of its people and the on-going work to resolve the conflict which continues daily. Additionally, it is our hope that these well-informed young people will then be empowered to examine Israel thoughtfully and critically from any number of perspectives and form their own intelligent opinions about daily events there. Our overarching goal is to create for our young people a sense of connection to the land of Israel and a kind of ownership of it as Jews, empowering them to both celebrate what is beautiful about Israel and struggle with Israel's shortcomings, working actively toward a brighter day. Our curriculum approaches Israel through history, geography, culture and arts, and current events. Our teachers will be experimenting with this curriculum through the year, as we look for the best ways to bring this critically important topic into our school.

For more information on our new curriculum, please contact the Education Office for summaries of our programs.

# November 2002 ♦ Chesvan 5763/Kislev 5763

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

## DECEMBER DEADLINE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, AT 5 PM

### ARTICLES

Please submit your articles as a Word attachment file via email to:  
kschiller@igc.org. No late submissions will be accepted.

### ADVERTISING

To place a display ad, contact Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209  
or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

3	28 Chesvan	4	29 Chesvan	5	30 Chesvan	6	1 Kislev	7
• 10 am Baby Chavurah • 4 pm Healing Service		• 7 pm Beit Midrash		• 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew I • 7 pm Poetry & Midrash		• 4 pm Midweek Kadimah • 7 pm JGF Editing		• 7 p
10	5 Kislev	11	6 Kislev	12	7 Kislev	13	8 Kislev	14
• 7 pm JGF Layout				• 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew I • 7 pm Poetry & Midrash		• 4 pm Midweek Kadimah • 7 pm Building and Grounds Meeting		• 7 p
17	12 Kislev	18	13 Kislev	19	14 Kislev	20	15 Kislev	21
		• 7 pm Kesher Committee		• 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew I • 7 pm Poetry & Midrash		• 4 pm Midweek Kadimah • 7 pm Transgender and Jewish Panel		• 6:30 • 6:30 • 7 pm
24	19 Kislev	25	20 Kislev	26	21 Kislev	27	22 Kislev	28
• 10 am Baby Chavurah		• 6:30pm Children's Education Board		• 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew I				T

URSDAY

FRIDAY

SHABBAT

	<b>1</b>	<b>26 Chesvan</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Gen. 23:1–25:18</b>	<b>27 Chesvan</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:30 pm Shabbat Services</li> <li>• 4:53 pm Candle Lighting</li> </ul>		<i>Ilana Rainero-de Haan Bat Mitzvah</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 am Torah Study</li> <li>• 9:30 am Kadimah</li> <li>• 10 am Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Leslie Kane</li> </ul>	
<b>2 Kislev</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3 Kislev</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Gen. 25:19–28:9</b>	<b>4 Kislev</b>
Intro to Judaism		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4:46 pm Candle Lighting</li> <li>• 7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Steve Weitz</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 am Torah Study</li> <li>• 9:30 am Kadimah</li> <li>• 10 am Shabbat Services</li> <li>• 1:30 pm LGBT Adoption Panel</li> </ul>	
<b>9 Kislev</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10 Kislev</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Gen. 28:10–32:3</b>	<b>11 Kislev</b>
Vr. Meeting Int. Judaism		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4:40 pm Candle Lighting</li> <li>• 6:15 pm Membership Dinner</li> <li>• 8:15 pm Shabbat Services</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 am Torah Study</li> <li>• 9:30 am Kadimah</li> <li>• 10 am Shabbat Services</li> </ul>	
<b>16 Kislev</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17 Kislev</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Gen. 32:4–36:23</b>	<b>18 Kislev</b>
Israel Committee Ritual Committee Meeting Intro to Judaism		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4:36 pm Candle Lighting</li> <li>• 8:15 pm Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Eileen Levy</li> </ul>		<i>Julia Becker Bat Mitzvah</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 am Torah Study</li> <li>• 9:30 am Kadimah</li> <li>• 10 am Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel</li> <li>• 10:30 am Tot Shabbat</li> </ul>	
<b>23 Kislev</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24 Kislev</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Gen. 37:1–40:23</b>	<b>25 Kislev</b>
TURSGIVING ce Closed		FIRST NIGHT OF CHANUKKAH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4:34 pm Candle Lighting</li> <li>• 7:30 pm Shabbat Services</li> </ul>		CHANUKKAH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 am Torah Study</li> <li>• 10 am Shabbat Services led by Randy Weiss and Alapai Michels</li> <li>• 10:30 am Tot Shabbat</li> </ul>	



East Bay Shabbat services will happen about four times a year, with an early potluck at 6:30 pm followed by a service at 7:30 pm. Holiday celebrations will be featured more often, starting with Chanukkah on December 6 (details to come).

If you want to know more about East Bay events but haven't been getting regular emails, please make sure the CSZ office has your email address (and, if you'd prefer to get a phone call, let us know that, too). We hope that, by keeping in better touch with our East Bay members, we'll be able to be more able to meet East Bay Bikkur Cholim needs, as well as make it possible for us to get together for more events in the East Bay, such as East Bay social action projects that are already happening.

We've also made plans to have Rabbi Angel cross the bridge on Saturday, March 1. We'll have a potluck and Havdallah service from 5 to 7 pm, followed by a study session from 7 to 8.

**September  
Va'ad Meeting**

We opened the meeting with widespread praise for Rosh Hashanah services. We recognized the efforts of High Holiday Ritual Co-Chairs Leslie Kane, Andy Fyne and Ron Edelman.

Nancy Kates delivered the d'var Torah, entitled "What I learned on my summer vacation." The parashah begins "Ha'azinu," meaning "give ear or listen up." Nancy described visiting aging relatives and listening to family history, during this time of bewildering world conditions. Nancy pointed out that the parashah is full of anger, pain and vengeance, of God's face being hidden from us when we worship others. She concluded that hearing is vital: If we are quiet and calm, we may discover that God is still speaking. She recommended that we give ear and listen even when the face of God is hidden from us.

A summer intern has indexed Va'ad minutes from 1999 to 2002 to make them more easily available.

President Lisa Katz delivered the Membership Committee report. We formally confirmed 18 new and one returning member households and acknowledged the resignation of one member.

Lisa then delivered the President's Report. She thanked Diana Buchbinder, who is leaving the Personnel Committee. We approved Steve Berlin's appointment to that committee. We also approved the appointment of Ron Lezell to the Dues Committee. Lisa thanked the CEB members whose terms are up: Liz Schaffer, Ruby Cymrot-Wu, Arthur Slepian, Dafna Wu, Ellen Murland and Leslie Kane. We approved the appointment of the following CEB members: Drew Parker-Rose, Laureen Ok Sun Kim, Shmulik Fishman, Diana Buchbinder,

—cont'd on page 11

## Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
290 Dolores Street  
415/861-6932(voice); 415/861-6081 (fax)  
Programming office, 415/575-4961  
Education office, 415/575-4962  

- office@shaarzahav.org (email)
- <http://www.shaarzahav.org> (web)

### CSZ Staff:

Rabbi,  
Camille Shira Angel (x 301)  

- rabbiangel@shaarzahav.org

Interim Administrator,  
James Carlson (x 308)  

- jcarlson@shaarzahav.org

Interim Program Director,  
Melanie Kushnir (x 305)  

- mkushnir@shaarzahav.org

Director of Children's and Family Education  
Sue Bojdak (x 302)  

- educator@shaarzahav.org

Kadimah Head Teacher,  
Phyllis Mintzer

Administrative Assistant,  
Steven Angelides (x 304)  

- sangelides@shaarzahav.org

Rabbi's Assistant,  
Gabby Voldarsky (x 310)

### Officers:

President, Lisa Katz  
(415/821-7746),  

- llkatz1@juno.org or
- president@shaarzahav.org

Vice President, Arthur Slepian  
Vice President, Jeffrey Sherman  
Treasurer, Gail Ludwig  
Recorder, Ray Bernstein

### Va'ad (Board) Members:

David Gellman (ex officio)  
Marianne Balin  
Ron Edelman  
Leslie Kane  
Nancy Kates  
Laura Lowe  
Ron Miguel  
Drew Parker-Rose  
Karen Schiller  
Howard Steiermann  
Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain her or his number from the synagogue office.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

### Committee Chairs:

*Adult Education*, Ron Edelman and Joss Eldredge

*Archives*, open

*Baby Chavurah*, open

*Bequests and Donations*, Richard Inlander

*Bikkur Cholim*, open

*Book Group*, Mark Mackler

*Building and Grounds*, Beth Sousa

*Bylaws*, Richard Inlander

*Children's Education Board*, Ruthy Talansky

*Cemetery*, Richard Inlander

*Dor Rishon Brotherhood*, open

*Dues*, Tiela Chalmers, Laura Lowe, Ron Lezell

*East Bay Chavurah*, Ida Kuluk and Larry Wexler

*Endowment Fund*, David Stein

*Finance*, Gail Ludwig

*Fine Arts*, Barbara Cymrot

*Fundraising*, Arthur Slepian

*Gift Shop*, Jeff Rubin

*Israel Committee*, Michal Goralsky and Steve Mazer

*Kesher/Connection*, Marianne Balin and Geri Kahn

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*Membership Outreach*, Tony Harris

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• kschiller@igc.org

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*Personnel*, Jeff Sherman

*Public Relations*, Sharyn Saslafsky and Marc Wernick

*Rabbi Liaison*, Ora Prochovnick

*Ritual*, Howard Steiermann

*Social Action*, AJ Turpen, Craig Persiko, Susan Lubeck

*Singles Chavurah*, Marc Wernick  

- mhernick@aol.com

*Toddler/Pre-school Chavurah*, open

*UAHC National Liaison*, Mike Rankin

*UAHC Regional Liaison*, Daniel Chesir

*WCGLBJO Liaison*, David Gellman

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*Women's Chavurah*, open

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## From the JEWISH TOOL KIT

Interesting and useful little tidbits about Shabbat and holidays, Hebrew language, liturgy, Jewish history and other areas of Jewish life. This month...

### Bible and Torah and Law. Oh My!

The Jews have been called "The People of the Book," but a more accurate description might be "The People of A Lot of Books." Our long and rich tradition is documented in many volumes and it can be a challenge to keep track of them all. To add to the confusion, some books have multiple names and some names have multiple meanings. Is the Torah in the Bible? Is the Bible part of the Torah? Are they the same thing? The Jewish Tool Kit is here to help sort it out.

What we commonly call the **Bible** or the **Hebrew Bible** or the **Scriptures** is known in Hebrew as *Tanakh*, which is an acronym for the three distinct sections of the Bible: **Torah** (Law), **Neviim** (Prophets) and **Ketuvim** (Writings).

**Torah** in its most specific sense, refers to the first five books of the Bible: *Bereishit* (Genesis), *Shemot* (Exodus), *Vayikra* (Leviticus), *Bemidbar* (Numbers) and *Devarim* (Deuteronomy). These five books are sometimes referred to in English as the **Five Books of Moses** or the **Pentateuch**, or in Hebrew as *Chumash*, an acronym for "five-fifths of the Torah." The Torah, viewed by tradition as revealed by God at Sinai and written down by Moses, serves as the basis for Jewish law and Jewish civilization. It covers the period from creation through the death of Moses just before the Israelites entered the land of Israel around 1300 BCE. [BCE=Before the Common Era; CE=Common Era. Many Jews use these terms instead of BC and AD, which refer to the birth of Jesus.]

**Neviim (Prophets)** chronicles the teachings of the Prophets of Israel in the context of the history of the Jewish people over the next thousand or so years, from the death of Moses through about 400 BCE. The Prophets are sometimes divided chronologically into "former" and "latter" prophets or substantively into "major" and "minor" prophets, but these distinctions are not too important. The books of the Prophets, in order of appearance, are: Joshua, Judges, Samuel 1 & 2, Kings 1 & 2, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

**Ketuvim (Writings)** is a collection of individual books of history, theology, poetry and wisdom. In order, they are: Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles 1 & 2.

Pretty simple so far: Bible/Tanakh/Scriptures = Torah/Chumash/Pentateuch/Five Books + Prophets + Writings. [The term "Old Testament" is not used by Jews, as it is based on the idea that there is a new bible that supersedes the Tanakh. The Hebrew Bible may be old but it's still going strong.]

The terms **Written Torah** (in Hebrew, *torah shebichtav*) or **Written Law** refer to the Five Books of Moses (and sometimes more broadly to the entire Bible), which was in written form from the time of Divine revelation.

**Oral Torah** (*torah shebaal peh*) or **Oral Law** refers to a parallel set of laws and teachings (viewed by tradition as revealed at Sinai simultaneously with the Written Torah) that provide the details for the general principles found in the scriptures. These teachings and subsequent interpretations were transmitted orally for centuries, until they were finally codified starting with the Mishnah in 200 CE. [We'll have more on the Oral Torah in another column.]

Torah can also refer to a **Sefer Torah**, the handwritten scroll of the Five Books from which we read on Shabbat and holidays. Finally, the term Torah can be used in its broadest sense, to refer to the entire body of Jewish scripture, law, interpretation, philosophy, commentary and thought, from ancient times through today. The Jewish tradition has plenty of material. So, in the words of Hillel: Go and Learn!

### Rabbi Angel's Recommended Reading



Antonelli, Judith S.,  
*In the Image of God: A Feminist Commentary on the Torah.*  
Jason Aronson Publishing.

Bialik, Hayyim Nahman et al (editors),  
*The Book of Legends-Sefer Ha-Aggadah: Legends from the Talmud and Midrash.*  
Schocken Books.

Cohen, Norman J.,  
*Self, Struggle & Change: Family Conflict Stories in Genesis and Their Healing Insights for Our Lives.*  
Jewish Lights Publications.

Fields, Harvey J.  
*A Torah Commentary for Our Times* (set).  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Leibowitz, Nehama. *New Studies In* (set, *Genesis through Deuteronomy*).  
World Zionist Organization.

Pitzele, Peter.  
*Our Fathers' Wells: A Personal Encounter With the Myths of Genesis.*  
HarperCollins.

Zornberg, Avivah Gottlieb.  
*The Beginning of Desire: Reflections on Genesis.*  
Image Books

Zornberg, Avivah Gottlieb.  
*The Particulars of Rapture: Reflections on Exodus.*  
Image Books

Comments about the Jewish Tool Kit or requests for topics to be covered can be sent to [PirkeiAvot@attglobal.net](mailto:PirkeiAvot@attglobal.net).

## Davener and Doers

### Jeffrey Lilly and Jeffrey Rubin

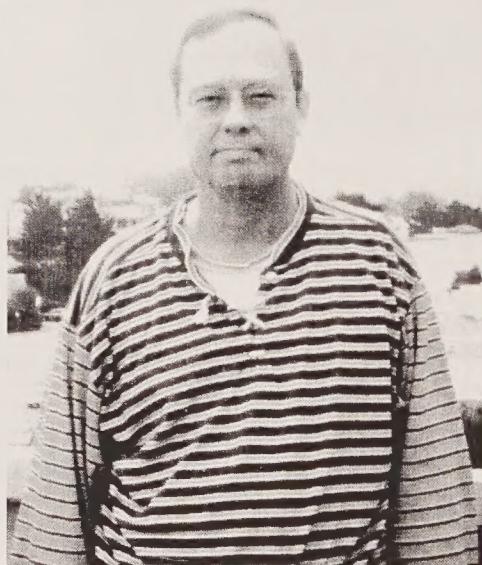
By Prudence Carter

This month I had the privilege to profile Jeffrey Lilly (JL) and Jeffrey Rubin (JR), two members who contribute so much to our community through their work at CSZ's gift shop. They are committed to offering Judaica that comes from local artists, and constantly seek new items that address the changing demographics of the shul. Their warmth and personal caring when guiding someone who perhaps is returning to or choosing Judaism and purchasing the first item with which to build a Jewish home is extraordinary. I encourage everyone to drop by to chat with them on Friday and of course to purchase something from the gift shop.

*JGF: Tell us about yourselves.*

**JL:** I was born in Boston and lived in eight different cities before I was twenty-one because my father traveled for business. My mother had family in San Francisco and used to rave about the city. So in 1973 I drove here to find out for myself and I stayed. I have an undergraduate degree from Duke and two masters degrees from San Francisco State, one in Russian and one in comparative literature. I studied under Rabbi Yoel Kahn and converted to Judaism at Temple Emanu-El. I began attending services at CSZ with Stephan Howard and enjoyed the services so much that I kept coming.

**JR:** I was born in Louisville, Kentucky and graduated with a degree in fine arts from the University of Louisville. I was raised in a semi-Orthodox kosher home—we did not keep Shabbat and went out to dinner. I spent my summers, however, with an Orthodox uncle. Later on I moved away from Judaism, becoming a "High Holiday Jew." I had heard of CSZ in Louisville when I participated in an interfaith service for Gay Pride. Our group used some of the CSZ prayer literature. My partner and I relocated



*Jeff Lilly*



*Jeff Rubin*

to SF in 1987 and about a year later I joined CSZ.

*JGF: How did you become involved with the gift shop?*

**JR:** Richard Inlander, founder of the gift shop, and Bill Ashley-Dobbin had a committee that I joined when the gift shop began at Danvers Street. I have a retail background selling everything you can think of, so it was something I was familiar with and really enjoyed. I volunteered, and as things evolved I began running the gift shop.

**JL:** That was about twelve years ago for Jeff. For me it has been about ten years. I wanted to meet Jeff, so I introduced myself and began volunteering. Through the gift shop Jeff and I became good friends and I have also met many people—including many new members. On Friday nights, Jeff and I have a ritual of going out to dinner, opening the gift shop and attending services.

*JGF: How has the gift shop evolved over the years in terms of merchandise, space and your gift sources?*

**JR:** At Danvers Street we had two or three cases and a lot of running up and down stairs.

**JL:** When we left Danvers Street, we had the "traveling Jewish gift shop." Our stock was either under Administrator Lea Salem's desk or in Jeff's garage—so every Friday we schlepped the merchandise to St. Matthew's. Our new location in the lobby at the shul is much better.

**JR:** In terms of buying, there is a gift show in San Francisco every year and we purchase from local artists such as Jacqueline Berg and our member Trudi Hauptman. I like the personal touch of having local artists. Jeffrey has a CD of recorded poetry and music at the shop. We have also received donations of items, such as the mystery menorah.

**JL:** We have begun selling books; Plaut's Torah Commentary sold out quickly. The demographic shift at the shul led us to increase our stock of Judaica for kids. Also, many of our members are now settled with homes, so we have increased our ritual items.

*JGF: What would you like to say to the community, so many of whom have stopped or shopped?*

**JR:** Thanks to your support we look forward to contributing a small profit back to the shul this year. Most importantly, come volunteer. The gift shop provides me the opportunity to give something back to my community. Helping someone pick out a ritual item or their first tallit; it's just a wonderful experience. I would also like to thank all the people who have helped us behind the scenes over the years, especially Marjorie Hilsenrad and Trudi Hauptman.

**JL:** I am grateful for everyone's business, and I feel a great sense of appreciation. If you need something special, let us know. We can do some personalized shopping for you

—cont'd on page 11

Joe Hample and Susan Shalit.

Lisa stated that we will be celebrating our 25th Anniversary the entire fiscal year, but there will not be a big event on November 16.

Leslie Kane and Ron Edelman delivered the High Holiday update. They praised the services and thanked the staff and the ritual volunteers, the front-line gabbaim, and Larry Wexler and Randy Weiss for the choreographed Torah processional. They also thanked Ritual Chair Howard Steiermann, Usher Co-Chairs Mike Klayman, Ida Kuluk and Mark Greenberg and Oneg Co-Chairs Alan Foss, Laura Lowe, Eileen Lynette and Richard Meyerson, for the food and their hours of work.

Rabbi Angel reported that she was grateful for everyone's advance preparation; she was actually able to have a yom tov, unlike most rabbis. The children's service was wonderful.

Rabbi Angel brought us text which included Rabbi Akiva's statement that "If our worst fears came true, so too can our greatest hopes." She commented on the vibrancy of our community as shown at the interfaith service on September 11. She praised the messages of Torah, uplift and restoration in the drashes and pushke pitches by Ruby Cymrot-Wu, Paul Cohen, Ruthy Talansky and Alex Ingersoll. She also reported a special moment in Jewish history: *The Jewish Bulletin of Northern California* has become the first Jewish press in the country to welcome same-gender wedding announcements.

Educator Sue Bojdak submitted a written Educator's Report and thanked High Holiday Children's Liaisons Joan Goldman and Dafna Wu. Kadimah enrollment is lower than expected, for various reasons. Due to logistical difficulties, the East Bay class has been transformed into tutoring sessions. We have nine madrichim teens, with more on the way.

James Carlson delivered the Administrator's Report. James welcomed creative ways to encourage members to send in their renewals earlier so the office staff is not dealing with late renewals at the same time they are focused on setting up services.

Drew Parker-Rose offered his expertise in helping with our email problems.

Vice-President Jeff Sherman reported that the Personnel Committee is beginning the interview process for an Executive Director, and that Administrative Assistant Sean Holcolmbe has resigned.

\* \* \* \* \*

### *Oneg and Flower Sponsorship*

#### *\* Rosh Hashanah*

Flowers Sponsored by **Ira Hirschfield** and **Julie Hansen**.

Oneg Sponsored by **Walter Leiss**.

#### *\* Yom Kippur*

Flowers Sponsored by **Laura Lowe** in memory of Norton Pintchuk.

Break Fast Sponsored by **Walter Leiss**.

because we have catalogues and can help you clarify what you would like. When the gift shop is closed, give the office a call. A person on staff can help you when we are not there. Our new hours are 6:45-7:20 pm beginning October 4.



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-in honor of Ruby Cymrot-Wu.

Avraham Giannini.

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-in honor of Anna Lichtenberg.

Amanda Littauer and Laura Steele.

Falyn Sokol.

Ruthy Talansky and Maureen Bennett  
-in honor of Leslie Kane.

Rabbi Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert  
-in honor of Rabbi Angel, all High Holiday service leaders, High Holiday volunteers and office staff.

### General Fund Donations

Marianne Balin and Prudence Carter  
-in memory of all who died on 9/11.

Ellen Berger.

Lucy Bernholz and Paula Fleisher  
-in honor of Gertrude Bernholz.

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-in honor of Ray Bernstein.

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-in memory of Joseph Levin and Frannie Lewin.

Marius Greenspan  
-in memory of Earl Greenspan.

Charles Hart  
-in memory of Peggy Hart.

Lawrence Helman  
-in honor of the 10th anniversary of Kosher Kung Pao Comedy.

Lisa Katz  
-in honor of all the amazing High Holiday volunteers.

Al and Debbie Klein  
-in honor of Asa Eli DiGirolamo-Klein.

Susan Leff and Brad Post  
-in honor of Miki Goralsky, Ellie Cohen and Leah Minnie Goralsky Cohen.  
-in honor of Rabbi Angel, Paul Cohen, Lyssa Friedman and Seth Charney for their contributions to our wedding at CSZ.

Carol and Jordan Levitin  
-in memory of Frank Hyman.

Rafael Mandelman  
-in honor of Esther Kozlowski.

James Moser  
-in memory of Andreas Jonathan Hinz.

Ellen Murland and Barbara Rinkoff  
-for Milt Murland's speedy recovery.

Jeanette Nichols  
-in honor of George Mintzer's health.  
-in memory of Myrtle Wexler.

Irene Ogas  
-in honor of Jeffrey Davidson.  
-in honor of Richard Inlander.  
-in honor of David Gellman.  
-in honor of Michael Sarid.  
-in honor of Laura Lowe.

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-in memory of Judith Elman.

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-in memory of Joseph Rosenthal.

Arthur Slepian  
-in memory of George and Sarah Slepian.  
-in honor of Leah Minnie Goralsky Cohen.

Gerry Llamado  
-in honor of Leah Minnie Goralsky Cohen.

Ilse and Walter Steirman  
-for Richard Brand's speedy recovery.

Laura Taichman.

Rabbi Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert  
-in honor of Daniel Chesir's election to the Presidency of UAHC Pacific Region.  
-in recognition of Mental Illness Awareness Month.

Randy Weiss  
-in honor of Larry Wexler, Mark Gershman and Tony Harris.

### General Fund (to cover Credit Card Charges)

Danny Kodmur.  
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Richard Meyerson.  
Ron Edelman.  
Stacey Hart.  
Theodore Goldstein.

### High Holiday Donations

Roberta Achtenberg.

Roy Bateman.

Ann Bauman and Kelly Theimann  
-in honor of High Holiday service leaders.

Dan Bellm and Yoel Kahn.

Allan Berenstein.

Rebecca Bermont.

Michael Bettinger.

Elliot Block  
-in memory of Tom Padera.

Stephen Blumenthal.

—cont'd on next page

Wendy Bogin and Scott Kane.

Diana Buchbinder and Jeane Redsecker.

James Carlson  
-in honor of High Holiday service leaders, and all High Holiday volunteers.

Fay Cohen.

Darcy Cohn  
-in honor of Rosie and Fergus.

Virginia Donohue and Mark Klaiman.

Carol Epstein  
-in honor of Rita and Eli Greenstein.

Norton and Charlotte Feldstein.

Rena Frantz and Ora Prochovnick.

James Frazin and Louisa Stone  
-in memory of Sarah Barlow.

Jeff Friedman  
-in honor of Ruby Cymrot-Wu.

Jonathan Funk.

Gregory Hoffman.

Thomas Holt  
-in honor of Steve Elman.  
-in memory of Judith Elman.

Joanie Horen.

Batya Kalis  
-in honor of Rabbi Angel.  
-in honor of the CSZ staff.

Jean and Norman Katz  
-in honor of Lisa Katz and Sharon Heath.

Rose Katz  
-in honor of CSZ kids.  
-in memory of Marvin J. Katz.

Janelle Kellman.

Joyce Kurtz.

Monica Levin  
-in honor of Paul Cohen's High Holiday pitch.

Lawrence Levitt.

Ron Lezell.

Marc Lipschutz.

Laura Lowe  
-in honor of Rosh Hashanah pushke pitchers Ruby Cymrot-Wu and Paul Cohen.  
-in honor of High Holiday oneg volunteers.  
-in honor of High Holiday oneg coordinators Richard Meyerson, Alan Foss and Eileen Lynette.  
-in honor of CSZ staff.  
Gregory Lynn.

Florence and Steven Nacamulli.

Paul and Donna Orloff.

Carolyn Pines and Judy Schwartz.

Linda Rhine.

Jeffrey Rubin.

Alison Schneider.

Richard Sinkoff.

Arthur Slepian and Gerry Llamado  
-in honor of Ruby Cymrot-Wu, Clarissa Kripke, Paul Cohen, Joe Hample for his Israel prayer and High Holiday ritual chairs.

Steven Solomon.

Ilse and Walter Steierman  
-in honor of Howard Steiermann.  
Sam Thal  
-in honor of Walter Leiss.

—cont'd on page 14

### **Members' Yahrzeits**

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 8 Misha Cohen  
 8 William Garcia  
 8 Tova Green  
 9 Shmulik Fishman  
 9 Brad Post  
 9 Martha Rosett  
 10 Elijah Lezell Jatovsky  
 10 Sean Martin-Hamburger  
 11 Bruce Kapsack  
 11 Joshua Katz  
 11 Patricia Lin  
 12 Michael Klain-Chavez  
 12 Seth Skolnick  
 12 Gina Surber  
 12 Richard Weiner  
 13 Zachery Barnes Miller  
 13 Cohen Stein  
 14 Ken Repp  
 15 Manny Fishman  
 15 Laura Lloyd  
 16 Jason Baskin  
 16 Ruth Rainero  
 17 Serra Hagedorn  
 20 Ali Cannon  
 20 Alan Gordon  
 21 Dorothy Goldstein-Stahl  
 21 Mark Greenberg  
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 29 David Rosenzweig  
 30 Alexandra Friedman

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A safe place to talk about life transition, relationship turmoil, emotional upheaval, existential crises... or simple, everyday concerns. Jody Reiss, LCSW (#15289). 415/401-9482

## Naches

- To **Shelly Adler and Nancy Showen**, on the birth of their sons, Jeffrey Samuel Adler and Scott Harrison Adler.
- To **Michele Sullivan and Andrew Williamson**, on the naming of their son and daughter, Jonathan and Vera.
- To new members **David Stern and Pookie Kochatchawan**, on the naming of their daughter, Maya Stern.
- To **Pieter de Haan**, on his entry into the covenant.
- To **Jim Acerra**, on his new position as Associate Director of Operations at Corporate Security Services.
- To **Scott Rutherford**, on his new position as the Program Services Coordinator for the San Francisco Sheriff's Department.
- To **Ed Lopatin**, who is maintaining his membership on a long distance basis after his move to Palm Springs.
- To **Barbara Cymrot**, whose beadwork will be featured in the Osher Marin JCC Isaacs Gallery show, "By Women's Hand: Jewish Ritual Objects-New and Re-interpreted by Female Artists," Sept 15-Dec 10.

## Condolences

**Rita Losch**, on the death of her mother, Lillian Losch.  
**Lisa Katz**, on the death of her friend, Lori Berger.  
**Susan Lubeck**, on the death of her great aunt, Ruth Meisel.  
**Ellen Berger**, on the death of her brother, Harvey Berger.  
**Barbara Cymrot**, on the death of her friend, Susan Lila Stone.

## DONATIONS—cont'd from page 13

Anita Weissberg  
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